

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01869 271454Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 /060 W

----- 077328

R 271358Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7285

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 1869

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT CO

SUBJ: POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT

1. FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS REPORTS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING IN BOGOTA THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ IS ABOUT TO MAKE SEVERAL CHANGES IN HIS ADMINISTRATION. THE MOST LIKELY CHANGES ARE TO OCCUR IN THE DEPARTMENTS, WHERE SEVERAL OF THE GOVERNORS HAVE BEEN UNDER FIRE, PARTICULARLY FROM LIBERALS, ALMOST FROM THE BEGINNING OF THEIR TENURES. IN SEVERAL OF THE DEPARTMENTS WHICH VOTED LIBERAL IN THE 1974 ELECTION, WHERE LOPEZ NAMED CONSERVATIVE GOVERNORS, LIBERAL PARTY CHIEFS HAVE CONTINUOUSLY EXPRESSED THEIR DISMAY AT HAVING "ONE OF THOSE" AS GOVERNOR. THE PREVAILING ATTITUDE AMONG THE LIBERALS SEEMS TO BE THAT PARTY APPOINTMENTS OF CONSERVATIVES SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY NAMING THEM "IN ANY DEPARTMENT BUT MINE". IN DEPARTMENTS WITH LIBERAL GOVERNORS, INTRA-PARTY SQUABBLES BASED ON PERSONAL POLITICAL RIVALRIES SEEM TO BE GROWING.

2. AN EL ESPECTADOR REPORT FEB 26 IMPLIED THAT MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT CORNELIO REYES HAD REQUESTED LETTERS OF RESIGNATION FROM ALL 22 GOVERNORS IN ORDER TO GIVE LOPEZ A FREE HAND IN MAKING CHANGES HE DEEMS NECESSARY. CONSERVATIVE GOVERNOR OF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01869 271454Z

ATLANTICO ROBERTO GERLEIN CONFIRMED TO REPORTERS THAT HE HAD

TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION OVER A WEEK AGO, BUT INDICATED THAT HE WOULD STAY ON IF LOPEZ WISHED. GERLEIN WAS ONE OF THREE GOVERNORS RECENTLY DENOUNCED BY 42 LIBERAL SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES (BOGOTA 1693).

3. CHANGES AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL ALSO MAY BE FORTHCOMING. THE EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THAT MINISTER OF LABOR DE CROVO MIGHT RESIGN SHORTLY. (THIS NO LONGER SEEMS LIKELY). MORE RECENTLY THE BOGOTA PRESS HAS INDICATED THAT JUSTICE MINISTER SANTOFIMIO IS ABOUT TO RESIGN, AND INDICATIONS ARE THAT RUMORS OF THIS TYPE WILL INCREASE DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IN PART IN ORDER TO LAY TO REST THESE RUMORS, ALL MINISTERS WILL PROBABLY SUBMIT THEIR RESIGNATIONS AS A MEANS OF SHOWING SOLIDARITY WITH LOPEZ AND TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO MAKE CHANGES IF HE DESIRES, WHILE AVOIDING THE APPEARANCE OF A CABINET CRISIS.

4. EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THE REPORTS ABOUT GOVERNOR CHANGES, BUT ARE LESS CERTAIN ABOUT CHANGES IN THE CABINET. THEY CITE SEVERAL REASONS FOR THE POSSIBLE CHANGES AT THE GOVERNOR LEVEL: (1) UNHAPPINESS IN THE DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL WITH THE WAY THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT IS, OR BETTER YET, IS NOT, OPERATING; (2) INTERNAL CARPING AMONG LIBERALS, MOST EVIDENT AT THE DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL, BUT WHICH THREATENS TO SPILL OVER INTO THE LOPEZ ADMINISTRATION; AND (3) THE DESIRE OF LOPEZ TO AVOID CONFRONTATION IN THE LIBERAL PARTY OVER THE NAMING OF A NEW COMPTROLLER GENERAL. SOME LIBERALS HAVE THREATENED TO FIGHT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A LIBERAL IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT LOPEZ COMMITTED THE LIBERALS TO APPOINT A CONSERVATIVE TO THAT POSITION DURING THE CAMPAIGN. LOPEZ EXPRESSED CLEARLY IN HIS RECENT ADDRESS TO THE NATION (BOGOTA 1694) THAT HE WISHED THE PARTY WOULD AVOID A STRUGGLE OVER THE NAMING OF A NEW COMPTROLLER DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN EARLY MARCH. MANY OF THE LIBERAL REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORTING THE LIBERAL COMPTROLLER THESIS, ARE AMONG THE LEADERS OF THE MOVEMENT TO OUST SOME GOVERNORS. LOPEZ MAY BE ABLE TO TRADE A FEW GOVERNORS AND POSSIBLY SOME CABINET MEMBERS FOR PARTY UNITY REGARDING THE COMPTROLLER ISSUE AS WELL AS ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE.

VAKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, POLITICAL PARTIES, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA01869
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750070-0053
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975028/aaaaagzd.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006